

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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Info

FROM: GENEVA

TO: Secretary of State

NO: CAHTO 92, JUNE 9, 11 AM

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Classification

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PRIORITY

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

LAST EVENING SELWYN AND COUVE DINED WITH ME AT MY VILLA. FOLLOWING DINNER AND BRIDGE WE TALKED WITH MERCHANT ONLY OTHER PERSON PRESENT ABOUT STATE WE NOW FOUND OURSELVES IN AT CONFERENCE. COUVE IS FIRMLY CONVINCED WE ARE AT DEAD END NOW CONFIRMED AT HIGHEST LEVEL BY KHRUSHCHEV'S BUDAPEST STATEMENT. TO HIM DISENGAGEMENT ONLY QUESTION BEFORE US AND HE URGED STRONGLY THAT WE CLOSE CONFERENCE IN NEXT DAY OR SO WITH AGREEMENT THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS REASSEMBLE HERE IN MID-JULY (INCIDENTALLY SOVIET PRESS SPOKESMAN AT OPEN BRIEFING LAST NIGHT CONTRARY TO FAIRLY CONSISTENT EARLIER EXPRESSIONS OF OPTIMISM STATED THAT CONFERENCE WAS DRAWING TO CLOSE AND GAVE AS REASON THAT FOUR WEEKS ABOUT NORMAL DURATION SUCH AFFAIRS).

SELWYN STRONGLY OPPOSED COUVE'S VIEW THOUGH AGREED SOME ACTION NEEDED TO INDICATE TO SOVIETS OUR DISQUIETUDE OVER THEIR INTRANSIGENCE. HE SAID HE HAD CONSIDERED AT CLOSE OF YESTERDAY'S SESSION REFUSING TO AGREE TO MEET TODAY BUT DECIDED AGAINST DOING SO ON GROUNDS NEWSPAPERS WOULD BLOW IT UP INTO CRISIS. SELWYN'S PRESCRIPTION IS THAT WE SHOULD STATE WE DESIRE RECESS OF FOUR OR FIVE DAYS TO REFLECT AND CONSULT. HE IS ALREADY PLANNING TO SPEND WEEKEND IN LONDON AND THIS WOULD EXTEND HIS PERIOD THERE. IT WOULD ALSO ENABLE HIM TO ATTEND A CABINET MEETING WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE TO BE SET FOR SUNDAY, EVOKING MEMORIES OF LAST SUNDAY CABINET MEETING AT HEIGHT SUEZ CRISIS.



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SELWYN'S MAIN ARGUMENT, HOWEVER, WAS CONCENTRATED ON INCREASED DESIRABILITY OF SUMMIT MEETING, BELIEVING WE HAD NOW REACHED POINT ON MATTER OF OUR RIGHTS WHICH ONLY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT COULD RESOLVE.

I DID NOT COMMIT MYSELF TO EITHER VIEW THOUGH I THINK IT WAS OBVIOUS I FOUND SELWYN'S ARGUMENTS IN GOOD PART UNACCEPTABLE. I TOLD THEM THAT I WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT INSTRUCTIONS IN REPLY TO A MESSAGE I WAS DESPATCHING TO YOU GIVING MY ESTIMATE OF WHERE WE NOW STOOD.

AT SELWYN'S SUGGESTION WE WILL MEET AGAIN TODAY AT NOON PRIVATELY AT MY VILLA WITHOUT THE GERMANS OR ADVISERS. INCIDENTALLY NEITHER SELWYN NOR COUVE AT ANY POINT SUGGESTED THAT I

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THAT I TALK TO GROMYKO PRIVATELY IN EFFORT TO BREAK DEAD-
LOCK. I SUSPECT YOU WILL SHORTLY BE RECEIVING A MESSAGE
FROM HAROLD URGING DECISION ALONG LINES SELWYN PROPOSES.

FAITHFULLY YOURS,

CHRIS."

HERTER



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